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Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8365th meeting
Wednesday, 3 October 2018, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Llorentty Soliz	(Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Members:	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Ipo
	Equatorial Guinea	Mrs. Mele Colifa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Woldegerima
	France	Mr. Michon
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Temenov
	Kuwait	Mr. Alahmad
	Netherlands	Mrs. Gregoire Van Haaren
	Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
	Poland	Ms. Wronecka
	Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
	Sweden	Mr. Vaverka
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Allen
	United States of America	Mr. Cohen

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 2380 (2017) (S/2018/807)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 2380 (2017) (S/2018/807)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Libya, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2018/887, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2018/807, which contains the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 2380 (2017).

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2437 (2018).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mr. Michon (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the unanimous renewal, for a period of 12 months, of the authorization on which the action of the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA) is based in order to fight against the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking on the high seas off the coast of Libya. The unanimous support of the Security Council for the European Union's commitment to peace and stability in Libya is a recognition of the key role played by the EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA in disrupting the smuggling networks and in saving tens of thousands of lives every year, as the most recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2018/807) recalls. The authorization of the Council is a sine qua non, allowing the operation to have the appropriate means to effectively combat the smuggling of migrants, in cooperation with the Government of National Accord, led by Prime Minister Serraj.

The text comes to the point by renewing the authorizations under resolutions 2240 (2015) and 2380 (2017) through which the Security Council expresses its deep concern about the extent of migrant smuggling in the Mediterranean and the humanitarian, political and security consequences for Libya and beyond. However, it is regrettable that the text is not more explicit in recalling the Council's positions on that serious issue, especially with regard to the applicable international legal framework, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

As the report of the Secretary-General points out, too many migrants — many of them women and children — continue to risk their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean. They are the victims of traffickers who exploit their distress. The human rights violations to which those vulnerable people are exposed shock the world's conscience. Moreover, the migrant smuggling and human trafficking fuel economic predation and jeopardize the fragile political balance in Libya. That is why the Council adopted its first sanctions against six smugglers of migrants in June, at the initiative of France and its European and American partners.

Finally, France recalls, as stated in resolution 2240 (2015), that migrants should be treated with

humanity and dignity and with full respect for their rights and that all States must fulfil their obligations under international law, including international human rights law and international refugee law. It also recalls the obligation to protect the human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status.

Mr. Allen (United Kingdom): I thank all Council members for their support for resolution 2437 (2018), which renews for a further 12 months the authorization for Member States and regional organizations to inspect and to seize vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya being used for migrant smuggling or human trafficking from Libya. I welcome the comments of my French colleague and his support for the resolution. We reiterate our full support for the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean and the critical work being carried out by operation SOPHIA in the Mediterranean.

Let there be no doubt — the resolution that we have adopted today sets out the same legal obligations regarding the implementation of those authorizations as resolution 2380 (2017), resolution 2312 (2016) and resolution 2240 (2015), which established the authorization in 2015.

The meeting rose at 3.10 p.m.